



# COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,

## STATEMENT SHOWING MINIMUM NOMINAL WEEKLY RATES OF WAGE AND ORDINARY HOURS OF LABOUR FOR WORKERS IN SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA AT 30th JUNE, 1950

(RATES OF WAGE ARE QUOTED FROM THE LATEST AWARD, DETERMINATION OR AGREEMENT OPERATIVE  
ON 30th JUNE, 1950.)

### ADULT MALES

Industry and Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rates of Wage	Hours	Rates of Wage	Hours
<u>WOOD, FURNITURE, SAWMILLS, ETC.</u>				
<u>COOPERING -</u>				
Copper	190/-	40	207/-	40
<u>FURNITURE -</u>				
Cabinet Maker	188/-	"	184/6	"
Chairmaker	188/-	"	184/6	"
French Polisher	188/-	"	184/6	"
Wood Carver	188/-	"	184/6	"
Wood Machinist	188/-	"	167/- to 184/6	"
<u>SAWMILLING &amp; TIMBER YDS.</u>				
Box and Case Maker	163/6	"	162/6	"
Labourer	146/-	"	145/-	"
Machinist -				
Baults Carver	178/-	"	177/-	"
Moulding	153/- to 178/-	"	152/- to 177/-	"
Planing	163/- & 178/-	"	162/- & 177/-	"
Shaping	178/-	"	177/-	"
Orderman	163/6	"	162/6	"
Sawyer -				
Band or Jig	165/- to 187/-	"	164/- to 186/-	"
Circular	165/- & 176/6	"	164/- & 175/6	"
Tallyman	163/6	"	162/6	"
<u>ENGINEERING, METAL WORKS, ETC.</u>				
<u>BOILERMAKING -</u>				
Boilermaker	190/-	40	189/-	40
Helper	161/-	"	160/-	"
Labourer	161/-	"	160/-	"
<u>BRASSWORKING -</u>				
Finisher	175/- & 190/-	"	174/- & 189/-	"
Moulder	166/- to 190/-	"	165/- to 189/-	"
<u>ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION</u>				
Armature Winder	190/-	"	189/-	"
Fitter	190/-	"	189/-	"
Linesman	178/-	"	177/-	"
Mechanic	190/-	"	189/-	"
Wireman	178/-	"	177/-	"
<u>ELECTRICAL SUPPLY -</u>				
Armature Winder	202/-	"	189/-	"
Instrument Maker	202/-	"	204/6	"
Linesman	196/-	"	177/-	"
Shift Electrician	202/-	"	189/-	"
<u>ENGINEERING -</u>				
Blacksmith	191/6	"	190/6	"
Brassfinisher	175/- & 190/-	"	174/- & 189/-	"
Coppersmith	191/6	"	190/6	"
Fitter	190/-	"	189/-	"

ADULT MALES (Cont'd)

Industry & Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rates of Wage	Hours	Rates of Wage	Hours
<u>ENGINEERING, METAL WORKS (Cont'd.)</u>				
<u>ENGINEERING - (Cont.)</u>				
Labourer	161/-	40	160/-	40
Patternmaker	203/-	"	202/-	"
Shaper	175/- & 196/-	"	174/- & 189/-	"
Striker	161/- & 163/-	"	160/- & 162/-	"
Turner	190/-	"	189/-	"
<u>MOULDING (IRON) -</u>				
Coremaker	166/- to 190/-	"	165/- to 189/-	"
Labourer	161/-	"	160/-	"
Moulder	166/- to 190/-	"	165/- to 189/-	"
<u>MOULDING (STEEL) -</u>				
Coremaker	190/-	"	189/-	"
Labourer	161/-	"	160/-	"
Moulder	190/-	"	189/-	"
<u>SHEET METAL WORKING -</u>				
Canister Maker	164/-	"	163/-	"
Machinist	160/-	"	159/-	"
Solderer	160/- & 164/-	"	159/- & 163/-	"
Tinsmith	175/- & 190/-	"	174/- & 189/-	"
<u>FOOD, DRINK, etc.</u>				
<u>BAKING (BREAD) -</u>				
Board Hand	193/-	"	197/4	"
Bread Carter (1 horse)	178/-	"	160/6	"
Overman	200/6	"	197/4	"
Single Hand	198/-	"	206/4	"
<u>BAKING (BISCUITS AND CAKES)</u>				
Baker	170/6	"	176/-	"
General Labourer	144/-	"	154/-	"
Mixer	159/- & 163/-	"	175/-	"
<u>BREWING</u>				
Cellarman	162/- & 165/-	"	181/6	"
Driver (1 horse)	165/-	"	177/-	"
Labourer	162/-	"	173/-	"
Malt Hand	162/-	"	173/-	"
Towerman	165/-	"	182/-	"
<u>BUTCHERING (RETAIL) -</u>				
Carter (1 horse)	165/-	"	160/6	"
General Hand	183/-	"	182/-	"
Shopman	183/-	"	182/-	"
Smallgoodsman	183/-	"	187/-	"
<u>CONFECTIONERY -</u>				
Journeyman	180/-	"	167/- to 179/-	"
Labourer	156/-	"	155/-	"
Storeman	156/- & 180/-	"	164/- to 184/9	"
<u>JAM MAKING -</u>				
General Labourer	156/-	"	156/-	"
Solderer	165/-	"	165/-	"
<u>MEAT PACKING -</u>				
Capper	190/6	"	200/-	"
Guillotine Hand	168/-	"	200/-	"
Jokerman	173/-	"	200/-	"
Packer	168/-	"	200/-	"
Seamer	190/6	"	200/-	"
<u>MILLING (FLOUR) -</u>				
Miller (Shift)	195/- to 220/-	"	195/- to 220/-	"
Packerman	180/-	"	180/-	"
Purifierman	183/-	"	183/-	"
Smutterman	183/-	"	183/-	"
Storeman (Head)	185/- & 190/-	"	185/- & 190/-	"
Topman	183/-	"	183/-	"
<u>PASTRY COOKING -</u>				
Packer	159/6	"	147/-	"
Pastrycook	179/6	"	181/6	"

ADULT MALES (Cont'd)

Industry & Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rates of Wage	Hours	Rates of Wage.	Hours
	<u>CLOTHING, HATS, BOOTS, etc.</u>			
<u>BOOTMAKING</u> -				
Bootmaker	172/-	40	172/-	40
<u>TAILORING (ORDER)</u> -				
Cutter	263/-	"	217/-	"
Presser	181/-	"	181/-	"
Tailor	188/-	"	188/-	"
<u>TAILORING (READYMADE)</u> -				
Cutter	192/-	"	192/-	"
Presser	181/-	"	181/-	"
Tailor	188/-	"	188/-	"
Trimmer	181/-	"	181/-	"
<u>TEXTILE WORKING</u> (Woollen Mills) -				
Carder	163/-	"	163/-	"
Dyehouseman	168/-	"	168/-	"
Labourer (General)	139/-	"	139/-	"
Scourer	168/- to 175/6	"	168/- to 175/6	"
Spinner	163/-	"	163/-	"
Tuner	156/- to 186/-	"	156/- to 186/-	"
Warper	165/-	"	165/-	"
	<u>BOOKS, PRINTING, BINDING, etc.</u>			
<u>BOOKBINDING</u> -				
Finisher	196/-	40	195/-	40
Bookbinding (Journeyman)	196/-	"	195/-	"
Paper Ruler	196/-	"	195/-	"
<u>PRINTING (DAILY NEWSPAPER)</u>				
<u>Compositor</u> -				
Day Work	264/- to 271/6	"	202/- to 215/-	38
Night Work	279/- to 287/6	"	217/- to 230/-	"
<u>Machinist</u> -				
Day Work	224/- to 236/6	"	215/-	40
Night Work	239/- to 252/6	"	230/-	38
<u>Publisher</u> -	201/6 & 225/-	"	182/6 to 197/6	38 & 40
<u>Reader</u> -				
Day Work	231/6 to 239/-	"	201/6	40
Night Work	246/6 to 255/-	"	211/6	38
<u>Stereotyper</u> -				
Day Work	219/- to 231/6	"	202/6	39
Night Work	234/- to 247/6	"	217/6	38
<u>PRINTING (JOBING OFFICES)</u> -				
Compositor	196/- to 206/6	"	195/- to 205/6	40
Linotype Operator	206/6	"	205/6	"
Machinist	196/-	"	195/-	"
Reader	199/6	"	198/6	"
Stereotyper	196/-	"	195/-	"
	<u>OTHER MANUFACTURING</u>			
<u>BRICKMAKING</u> -				
Burner	163/- & 168/-	40	178/-	40
Clayholeman	175/3	"	178/3	"
Drawer	181/-	"	176/3 & 178/9	"
Trucker	172/6	"	169/6	"
Setter	181/-	"	176/3 & 188/9	"
<u>WHEELMAKING</u> -				
Bodymaker	190/-	"	189/-	"
Labourer	141/-	"	140/-	"
Painter	163/6 to 184/6	"	162/6 to 183/6	"
Springmaker	190/-	"	189/-	"
Trimmer	184/6	"	183/6	"
Wheelwright	184/6	"	183/6	"

ADULT MALES (Cont'd)

Industry & Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rates of Wage	Hours	Rates of Wage	Hours
<u>OTHER MANUFACTURING (Cont'd.)</u>				
<u>GAS-MAKING AND SUPPLY -</u>				
Coke Trimmer	166/-	40	162/-	40
Gasfitter	199/-	"	194/6	"
Labourer	153/-	"	158/-	"
Water Tester	167/- to 176/-	"	191/3	"
Service Layer	182/-	"	181/-	"
Service Layer Labourer	163/-	"	164/-	"
Stoker	177/-	"	176/-	"
<u>JEWELLERY -</u>				
Chainmaker	188/-	"	189/-	"
Mounter	188/-	"	189/-	"
Setter	196/-	"	179/6	"
<u>SADDLERY AND HARNESS MAKING -</u>				
Collar Maker	178/-	"	177/-	"
Harness Maker	178/-	"	177/-	"
<u>TANNING AND CURRYING -</u>				
Beaman	185/6	"	184/6	"
Labourer	161/6	"	160/6	"
Limeman	178/6	"	177/6	"
<u>Machinist -</u>				
Chavling	186/6 to 192/6	"	185/6 to 191/6	"
Splitting	192/6 to 199/6	"	191/6 to 198/6	"
Unhairing	185/6	"	184/6	"
Tableman	180/6 & 186/6	"	179/6 & 185/6	"
<u>BUILDING</u>				
Bricklayer	204/-	40	215/-	40
Carpenter	204/-	"	198/6	"
Mason (Stone)	202/-	"	206/6	"
Painter	196/-	"	214/8	"
Paperhanger	196/-	"	214/8	"
Signwriter	206/-	"	214/8	"
Plasterer	204/-	"	215/-	"
Plumber	205/-	"	210/6	"
<u>Labourer -</u>				
Bricklayer's	163/6	"	162/6	"
Carpenter's	163/6	"	162/6	"
Concrete Worker	163/6	"	162/6	"
Earth Excavator	163/6	"	162/6	"
Gear Worker	172/6	37 1/2	171/6	"
Scaffold Hand	172/6	"	171/6	"
<u>RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY SERVICES</u>				
<u>RAILWAYS</u>				
<u>Engine Driver Loco -</u>				
1st Class	227/- & 230/-	ø	213/- to 228/-	ø
2nd Class	221/-	ø	210/-	ø
3rd Class	212/-	ø	201/-	ø
<u>Fireman -</u>				
1st Class	180/- & 183/-	ø	171/- to 178/-	ø
2nd Class	177/-	ø	165/-	ø
3rd Class	173/-	ø	159/-	ø
<u>Guard -</u>				
1st Class	197/-	ø	194/6	ø
2nd Class	188/- & 191/-	ø	177/- to 188/6	ø
3rd Class	183/- & 185/-	ø	177/- to 186/6	ø
<u>Porter -</u>	154/- to 185/-	ø	152/6 to 187/-	ø
<u>Shunter -</u>				
1st Class	196/- & 200/-	ø	193/- & 196/-	ø
2nd Class	185/6 & 188/6	ø	183/6 & 188/6	ø
3rd Class	166/- to 182/-	ø	166/- & 177/6	ø

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ADULT MALES (Cont'd.)

Industry & Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rates of Wage	Hours	Rates of Wage	Hours
RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY SERVICES (Cont'd.)				
RAILWAYS (Cont'd.)				
Signalman -				
1st Class	212/-	Ø	199/6	Ø
2nd Class	204/-	Ø	186/6	Ø
3rd Class	196/-	Ø	178/6	Ø
TRAMWAYS -				
Conductor -				
1st Year	156/-	Ø	160/-	Ø
2nd Year	165/-	Ø	166/-	Ø
3rd Year	165/-	Ø	166/-	Ø
Labourer	146/-	Ø	154/-	Ø
Maintenance Man	155/- & 158/-	Ø	163/-	Ø
Motorman -				
1st Year	168/-	Ø	160/-	Ø
2nd Year	168/-	Ø	166/-	Ø
3rd Year	168/-	Ø	166/-	Ø
Pitman	171/-	Ø	174/-	Ø
Ø 80 hours per fortnight.				
TRANSPORT (OTHER)				
CARRYING MERCHANDISE -				
Carter -				
1 Horse	164/-	40	160/6	40
2 Horses	169/-	"	168/6	"
Stable Hand	163/6 & 168/6	"	155/-	"
Motor Lorries & Waggon-				
Under 3 tons	166/- to 176/-	"	168/6 & 174/6	"
3 tons and over	180/- to 184/-	"	172/- to 179/-	"
WHARF LABOUR -				
Wharf Labourer(per hour)	5/5 1/2d.		5/5 1/2d.	
HOTELS, etc.				
HOTELS -				
Barman	168/-	40	167/-	40
Billiard Marker	158/-	"	157/-	"
Cook	168/- to 208/-	"	167/- to 207/-	"
Handyman	158/-	"	157/-	"
Kitchenman	158/-	"	157/-	"
Porter	158/-	"	157/-	"
Waiter	158/- & 168/-	"	157/- & 167/-	"
HAIRDRESSING				
Full Hand	185/6	"	195/6	"
Hairdresser	175/6	"	176/-	"
GENERAL LABOUR				
FACTORY ENGINE DRIVING -				
Engine Driver -				
1st Class	175/- & 181/6	40	174/- & 180/6	40
2nd Class	170/- & 175/-	"	169/- & 174/-	"
Fireman -				
1st Class	170/-	"	169/-	"
2nd Class	165/-	"	164/-	"
MUNICIPAL -				
Labourer	161/-	"	162/-	"
Street Sweeper	161/-	"	162/-	"
SHOP ASSISTANTS -				
Boot Salesman	180/-	"	174/-	"
Drapery Salesman	180/-	"	174/-	"
Furniture Salesman	180/-	"	177/-	"
Grocery Salesman	180/-	"	170/-	"
Hardware Salesman	180/-	"	174/-	"
Men's Clothing Salesman	180/-	"	174/-	"
STOREMEN AND PACKERS -				
Packer (General)	164/6 & 167/6	"	164/-	"
Storeman (General)	163/- & 165/6	"	164/-	"

ADULT FEMALES.

Industry & Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rates of Wage	Hours	Rates of Wage	Hours
	<u>FOOD</u>			
Biscuit Making	108/-	40	121/3	40
Confectionery	107/6	"	116/3	"
	<u>CLOTHING</u>			
Bootmaking	114/9	40	114/9	40
Dressmaker	106/6 to 136/6	"	106/6 to 136/6	"
Milliner	106/6	"	106/6	"
Shirt Maker	106/6	"	106/6	"
Underclothing	106/6 & 123/6	"	106/6	"
<u>Tailoring - Order -</u>				
Machinist (Coat)	136/6	"	136/6	"
" (Trousers & Vest)	124/-	"	124/-	"
Tailoress (Coat)	152/6	"	152/6	"
" (Trousers & Vest)	124/-	"	124/-	"
<u>Tailoring - Readymade -</u>				
Machinist (Coat)	126/6	"	126/6	"
" (Trousers & Vest)	121/6	"	121/6	"
Tailoress (Coat)	126/6	"	126/6	"
" (Trousers & Vest)	121/6	"	121/6	"
<u>Textile Working Woollen Mills</u>				
Comb Minder	117/6	"	117/6	"
Drawer & Mender	116/6 & 119/6	"	116/6 & 119/6	"
Warper	119/6	"	119/6	"
Weaver (Loom)	122/6	"	122/6	"
Gillbox Minder	116/6	"	116/6	"
Other Adult	104/6	"	104/6	"
	<u>BOOKS, PRINTING, etc.</u>			
<u>Bookbinding -</u>				
Folder	98/-	40	98/-	40
Sewer	98/-	"	98/-	"
<u>Cardboard Box -</u>				
Boxmaker	96/6 & 103/-	"	96/- & 102/6	"
Other	87/- to 99/-	"	86/6 to 98/6	"
Jobbing Office Assistant	98/6	"	98/-	"
	<u>HOTELS AND SHOPS</u>			
Barmaid	121/6	40	167/-	40
Housemaid	96/6	"	95/9	"
Laundress	106/-	"	99/9	"
Waitress	96/6 & 102/6	"	95/9 & 101/9	"
Best Saleswoman	116/6 to 180/-	"	117/-	"
Drapery Saleswoman	116/6	"	174/-	"